

TEXT TO VISUAL SPEECH SYSTEM AND METHOD INCORPORATING FACIAL EMOTIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A visual speech system for converting emoticons into facial expressions on a
5 displayable animated facial image. The system comprises: (1) a data import system for
receiving text data that includes at least one emoticon string, wherein the at least one
emoticon string is associated with a predetermined facial expression; and (2) a text-to-
animation system for generating a displayable animated face image that can simulate at
least one facial movement corresponding to the predetermined facial expression. The
10 system is preferably implemented remotely over a network, such as in an on-line chat
environment.